

Early Law Makers



How is Parliament structured?

House of Commons	House of Lords	Monarch
All of the Members of Parliament, who were elected in the General Election, work in the House of Commons. They debate about a Bill before it is turned into a law and make sure that the Government's plans are fair. There are 650 MPs in the House of Commons.	All of the members of the House of Lords have been chosen because they have special skills. They look at the Bill after the House of Commons, have a debate and then vote about whether they think it's a good idea.	The King or Queen is the last person to look at a Bill. They sign to say they think it is a good idea and it is then called an 'Act of Parliament' and becomes a law. The King or Queen very rarely disagrees with the Parliament's decision.

Timeline of key events

1215	Magna Carta is signed and the idea of parliaments begins. Before this the King was in charge.
1295	Edward I calls two knights and two burgesses from each town to sit in his Parliament.
1605	A group, including Guy Fawkes, plots to blow up Parliament
1649	Parliament executes King Charles I.
1688	Parliament asks William III to invade. The Bill of Rights is created
1721	Robert Walpole becomes the first Prime Minister
1867	More men are given the right to vote.
1918	Some women are given the right to vote.
1928	All men and women over 21 can vote

Key Vocabulary

Parliament	The people who make sure the Government are doing a good job running our country.
Government	The people who run the country
Prime Minister	The person in charge of the government,
Minister	Someone chosen by the Prime Minister to do a special job like thinking about hospitals or schools.
Cabinet	A team of about 20 ministers who give advice to the Prime Minister
Bill	A proposal about a new law given to parliament to debate.
Democracy	A government where people have a say.
Member of parliament (MP)	Someone who was elected in the General Election and debates in the House of Commons.
Monarch	The King or Queen.
General election	When people vote for who they would like to represent them in parliament.

